

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Wednesday, March 1, 2000

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 1, 2000.

I hereby appoint the Honorable RAY LAHOOD to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

We recognize, O gracious God, that prayer is a practice that unites people as no other act can do, and we realize that by prayer we can put aside that which divides us and join with a common voice in words of praise, petition, and thanksgiving.

On this day we recall all who have any special need; those who seek healing and wholeness, those who yearn for peace and concord, those who are hungry or homeless, those who seek friendship and support. We ask for Your blessing, O God, that we will be filled with a new sense of purpose and mission so that in all things we will do justice, love mercy, and ever walk humbly with You. This is our earnest prayer. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Chair's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Chair's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. HERGER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HERGER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces that he will entertain fifteen 1-minutes per side.

SOCIAL SECURITY REFORM

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, Baron Rothschild once said, "I do not know what the seven wonders of the world are, but I do know the eighth: Compound interest."

Mr. Speaker, Baron Rothschild called compound interest the eighth wonder of the world for a good reason. Modest amounts of money, when invested, and then reinvested, grow over time in a spectacular fashion.

Every American deserves the right to save a portion of their FICA tax and control it in a tax-free account that can be invested in an authorized group of funds, just like a 401(k) or a pension plan.

This could save Social Security permanently without a tax increase or a benefit cut. It would ensure that the poorest worker would have a savings account within 6 months of starting work. Within a few years, that worker would be a saver and an investor, getting the benefit of investment return, earning compound interest at competitive rates, not just Treasury rates. For younger Americans this could produce retirements at three to six times the wealth they would get from the government system, and it would protect the system from collapsing when baby boomers retire.

Mr. Speaker, we need to save and strengthen Social Security, and this is a good way to do it.

INTERNATIONAL ABDUCTION

(Mr. LAMPSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to talk about another of America's 10,000 children who have been abducted to foreign countries: David Richard Uhl.

In April of 1998, at age 1, David Uhl was taken from his father, Dr. George Uhl, in his home in Maryland, to Munich, Germany. The United States courts ordered that David's clear best interest was to be in his father's custody and ordered his return.

However, the German courts have supported his mother's efforts to keep him from his father and have provided no visitation and have provided no timely ruling on Hague petitions. When George last traveled to Munich in February, a German judge would not order visitation or even tell him where his son was hidden. The lower German court rulings that grant David's mother German custody move through the German appeals court next week, and I am hopeful that George's son will soon be returned to him.

Dr. Uhl and parents like him need our help. Mr. Speaker, we must show respect and concern for the most sacred of bonds, the bond of a parent and a child. When we look at a globe and we see boundaries, but when it comes to uniting families, we must know no boundaries. We must bring our children home.

WORKING SENIORS DESERVE A BREAK

(Mr. HERGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say that working seniors deserve a break, and it is time we gave it to them.

I think most of us in this chamber agree that our Tax Code needs to be fairer. And in order for the Tax Code to be fairer, we must first eliminate the many ways that it unfairly punishes the American people.

Our House took a first step on this front just a few weeks ago when we passed a bill that would give married

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.